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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, at 5 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2016

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, the way, the truth, and the life, shine Your light upon our lawmakers as they begin a new week. Illuminate their minds with Your wisdom, that they may know what to think and do, refusing to become weary in well-doing. Lord, keep them from straying from Your precepts as they remember that those who walk with integrity walk securely. Teach them the lessons they need to learn so that they will not repeat the mistakes of the past. May they serve this land with competence and faithfulness, never forgetting their accountability to You. Cause them to hear Your words and to follow where You lead.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

ZIKA VIRUS AND VA-MILCON FUNDING BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, combatting the spread of the Zika virus should be a priority for both parties. We worked hard to forge a compromise solution that made \$1.1 billion available to fight this virus. That compromise plan already passed the Senate with unanimous support of Democrats.

We now have a bicameral agreement that provides the exact same compromise level of funding. The House did its job and approved the legislation. The Senate can now do its job to send that legislation down to the President.

Democrats joined Republicans in sounding the alarm about Zika, but now we are at the finish line, and suddenly our friends across the aisle are changing their tune. Here is what the fourth-ranking Senate Democrat recently said:

Families are looking to Congress for action on Zika. It is well past time that we delivered.

So will she help the Senate deliver tomorrow or play partisan politics?

Here is what the third-ranking Senate Democrat recently said: "Every day we wait, every day is increasing the risk that we will have problems with Zika." So will he help the Senate to take action tomorrow or play partisan politics?

The second-ranking Democrat recently said that "the mosquitoes carrying this deadly virus are on the march." So will he help the Senate arrest that march before the Fourth of July or play partisan politics?

Here is what the Democratic leader recently said: "Every day we wait is a

bad day . . . for America and the world." So will he help the Senate pass this \$1.1 billion Zika control funding compromise or play partisan politics and delay action for weeks?

The White House, which recently called for congressional action on Zika by July 4, said:

[T]he time to prepare before Zika begins to spread in the continental United States is rapidly closing. . . . [W]e need some congressional action. We need a sense of urgency and we need it now.

Democrats have tried to claim they weren't involved in negotiations over this legislation, but they were from beginning to end, and the House agreed to the funding level that Democrats supported unanimously.

Democrats have tried to trot out the "war on women" playbook, but this legislation actually provides more resources for women's health services—through hospitals, health departments, community health centers, and other public programs.

Democrats have even tried to claim that this Zika legislation would endanger clean water protections, but it won't. It contains a temporary, targeted compromise that will allow experts to actually get at mosquito control, the root cause of Zika, in an effective way while we wait for a vaccine. The agreement before us is a compromise with input from both parties, and it represents the last chance we will have to address Zika for weeks.

The CDC Director testified that the \$1.1 billion funding level will allow him "to do the things we need to do in the immediate term." He said: "The sooner we get a bill, the better."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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